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Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights situations and reports of special rapporteurs and representatives

Situation of human rights in Myanmar

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1

Nineteenth report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009

1. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions has considered the statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly (A/C.5/62/13) on the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

2. As indicated in paragraph 2 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General, under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of draft resolution A/C.3/62/L.41/Rev.1, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General (a) to continue to provide his good offices and to pursue his discussions on the situation of human rights and the restoration of democracy with the Government and the people of Myanmar, including all relevant parties to the national reconciliation process in Myanmar and to offer technical assistance to the Government in that regard; (b) to closely monitor the developments with regard to the violent incidents that took place, with the aim of preventing the resumption of violence; (c) to give all necessary assistance to enable the Special Adviser and the Special Rapporteur to discharge their mandates fully and effectively and in a coordinated manner; and (d) to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, as well as to the Human Rights Council, on the progress made in the implementation of the resolution.



3. The activities related to the implementation of the requests are described in paragraphs 4 to 7 of the statement of the Secretary-General (A/C.5/62/13). Paragraphs 8 to 11 contain information on the estimated resource requirements. The Advisory Committee notes that the Secretary-General estimates that the costs of continuing the good-offices efforts through his Special Envoy for Myanmar for a one-year period (1 January to 31 December 2008) amount to \$781,900 net (\$865,100 gross).

4. These resources would cover the salaries for the Special Envoy including two support staff (1 P-4 and 1 General Service (Other level)); the official travel of the Special Envoy to Myanmar, neighbouring countries in the region, Europe and North America, including United Nations Headquarters; the services of a consultant; and miscellaneous services in support of his mission. The Committee points out that these resource requirements are included as part of the proposals of the Secretary-General on estimates in respect of special political missions, good offices and other political initiatives for 2008 (see A/62/512/Add.1, paras. 2 to 13), which would, if approved, be charged against the total provision of \$604,060,100 for special political missions under section 3, Political affairs, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

5. With regard to the request contained in the last part of operative paragraph 6 (a), of the draft resolution, concerning technical assistance, such assistance, if requested, would be accommodated, according to the Secretary-General, within the technical cooperation activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Advisory Committee also notes that, with regard to the request contained in operative paragraph 6 (c), pertaining to the Special Rapporteur, the Secretary-General, in his statement of programme budget implications, informed the Human Rights Council, upon adoption of its resolution S-5/1, that the estimated requirements of \$46,700 required to implement activities called for in the resolution would be absorbed within the appropriations approved for the biennium 2006-2007. The Secretary-General intends to inform the General Assembly on the estimated requirements in his report on the revised estimates resulting from resolution S-5/1. The requirements fall under section 23, Human rights, of the programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

6. The Secretary-General indicates that, with regard to the biennium 2008-2009, no additional resources are requested for section 23, Human rights, at this juncture in the light of the continuing review by the Human Rights Council of its subsidiary machinery in response to General Assembly resolution 60/251. Should additional resources be required, a consolidated statement of requirements arising from the continuing review by the Council and potential absorptive capacity from reduced requirements arising from the amended programme of work under the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009 would be reported to the General Assembly.

7. The Advisory Committee has no objection to the course of action proposed in paragraphs 12 and 13 of the statement submitted by the Secretary-General.